

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 MMO-01 IO-13 /084 W

----- 048595

R 060537Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6687

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 1608

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LA, US

SUBJECT: THE BICENTENNIAL AT VIENTIANE

REF VIENTIANE 1600 (050358Z JUL 76)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY 1976 IN VIENTIANE PASSED IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF CORRECTNESS AND CALM. ON JULY 4 PRESIDENT SOUPHANOUVONG AND FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUNE SIPRASEUTH SENT PRO FORMA CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS TO PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER (REFTEL). THESE MESSAGES WERE DULY REPORTED IN THE PRESS. THE EMBASSY HELD ITS RECEPTION AT THE CHARGE'S RESIDENCE THE EVENING OF JULY 5.

2. ELEVEN OF THE TWENTY LAO OFFICIALS INVITED APPEARED AT THE PARTY. THEY WERE HEADED BY PARTY POLITBURO MEMBER, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUNE SIPRASEUTH (WHO SELDOM ATTENDS NON-COMMUNIST NATIONAL DAYS) AND INCLUDED INFORMATION MINISTER SISANA SISANE, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
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FOREIGN AFFAIRS KHAMPHAY BOUPHA, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE VIENTIANE

CITY ADMINISTRATION PHAO PHIMPHACHANH, AS WELL AS SEVEN FOREIGN MINISTRY STAFF MEMBERS (BUT NOT CHEF DE CABINET SOUBANH SRITHIRATH). ALL THE LAO GUESTS WERE FRIENDLY. SOME OF THE COMMUNISTS AMONG THEM EXPRESSED VAGUE HOPES FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS IN THE FUTURE. PHOUNE GAVE A PERFECTLY CORRECT AND INNOCUOUS TOAST IN LAO.

3. THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, INCLUDING ITS EAST EUROPEAN MEMBERS, TURNED OUT IN FORCE. THE ONLY NOTABLE ABSENTEE WAS THAI AMBASSADOR SWATE KOMALABHUTI, WHO WAS SAID TO BE ATTENDING A WEDDING AT UBON.

4. COMMENT: JUST TO KEEP US FROM GETTING TOO EUPHORIC OVER LAO OFFICIAL BEHAVIOR TOWARD OUR NATIONAL CELEBRATION, THE PARTY NEWSPAPER "SIENG PASASON" ON JULY 6 PUBLISHED A LONG ARTICLE MARKING THE BICENTENNIAL WHICH ATTACKED THE UNITED STATES AND ALL ITS WORKS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976VIENTI01608
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760262-0853
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760786/aaaacxxu.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 VIENTIANE 1600
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE BICENTENNIAL AT VIENTIANE
TAGS: PFOR, LA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006